

# BULLETIN

## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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July 15, 1922

### ANNUAL MEETING

#### To Members:

At the Annual Meeting of the League, held in Providence on June 24th, nine agencies were admitted into full membership and one to associate membership. They are as follows:

**ARKANSAS**—Commission of Charities and Correction, 351 New State Capitol, Little Rock. Mrs. Margaret Ford, Commissioner.

**CONNECTICUT**—Bureau of Child Welfare of Department of Public Welfare, State Capitol, Hartford. Chas. E. Dow, Commissioner of Child Welfare. (The Connecticut Children's Aid Society has become the distributing centre.)

**MASSACHUSETTS**—Children's Aid Association of Hampshire County, 39 Main Street, Northampton. Miss Mary Woodward, General Secretary. Articles 1 and 2, Hampshire County; Article 3, Northampton.

**NEBRASKA**—Nebraska Children's Home Society, 602 L. & B. Association Bldg., Omaha. Rev. R. B. Ralls, Superintendent. Articles 1, 2 and 3, Nebraska. The subscribing Society shall bear the actual expense involved, except for time of investigation.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**—Orphans' Home, Concord. Miss Marguerite Malcom, Superintendent. Article 3, Concord and close vicinity.

**NEW YORK**—Jewish Board of Guardians, 356 Second Avenue, New York City. Mrs. Sidney C. Borg, Chairman Outside Activities.

**OHIO**—Children's Aid Department of the Social Service Federation, 572 Ontario Street, Toledo. Arthur A. Guild, Superintendent. Articles 1, 2 and 3, Lucas County.

**PENNSYLVANIA**—White-Williams Foundation, 1022 Cherry Street, Philadelphia. Miss Anna B. Pratt, Director. Articles 1, 2 and 3, City of Philadelphia.

**PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**—Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner, Manila. Mr. José Fabella, Commissioner.

#### Associate Member:

**WISCONSIN**—Juvenile Department of State Board of Control, Madison. Dr. Maybelle M. Park, Director.

Will members please add these to their Directories?

The officers and members of the Executive Committee who came up for re-election were all re-elected, and a recommendation was passed that at the next Annual Meeting the following amendment to the Constitution be submitted, after proper preliminary notice, to the members of the League.

That the six members of the Executive Committee whose terms expire at the Annual Meeting in 1923 and in subsequent years be ineligible to re-election until after the expiration of one year.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee, held immediately after the Annual Meeting, Mr. Hawk, President of the National Children's Home and Welfare Association, announced that that organization had voted to continue the arrangement of programme in conjunction with the Child Welfare League of America, and it was thereupon voted that the Child Welfare League of America appoint a Committee on Programme to act jointly with the Committee appointed by the National Children's Home and Welfare Association.

It was also voted that the League render such international service as to the Director seems advisable.

On the question of the proper and improper use of pictures and other publicity material by members of the League other than those to whom the material belongs, it was voted to refer the whole matter to the Committee on Publicity for a report at the next meeting.

It was further voted that the Executive Committee authorize the Director of the League to attend the Pan-American Child Welfare Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro late in August, if after consultation with The Commonwealth Fund the expenditure of the necessary cost from our funds would be approved.

It was further voted to approve the plan for an Executive Committee Meeting to be held in Chicago during the latter half of September and to authorize the necessary expense thereof.

### INFANT MORTALITY NEWS

"Statistical Report of Infant Mortality for 1921, in 573 Cities of the United States."

This pamphlet is one of the statistical reports of infant mortality which has been published annually by the American Child Hygiene Association, recently removed from Baltimore to 17th

and F Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C. Their first report in 1919 covered 269 cities. Last year they covered 519 and this year they have done even better.

There were 746 cities of 10,000 population in continental United States in the 1920 Census. Of these 664 are in the Death Registration Area. The statistics found in this report are from 573 cities of this number that responded to the request for detailed report. The report covers 89 per cent. of these cities and 94.4 per cent. of the population of the cities of this area. The most complete returns were obtained for the cities in the Birth Registration Area, numbering 558. Of these, 515 or 92.3 per cent., with a population of 33,354,032 are included in the report. The Birth Registration Area for 1921 was composed of 27 States and the District of Columbia. The States are California, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

Will you not look in this list for the name of your own State, and if it is not there try to find out from your State Department of Health what obstacles there are to your State's being included? Is it not the duty of every child-helping agency to do what lies in its power to get births properly and accurately recorded? In a very definite way a child whose birth is not recorded is more menaced by careless treatment or exploitation than if the record is found there.

The infant mortality rate in these cities varies very much in different parts of the United States. In those States where all cities were reported the lowest rate occurred in Oregon, which had 48.9; Washington, 52.3; Minnesota, 59.0, and California, 60.0. Among the Central States, Kansas with 71.9 was the lowest, and Connecticut led in the Northern Atlantic Coast States with 71.8.

The States with large negro population in the Birth Registration Area only numbered six, and in these the influence of the negro population on the infant mortality rate was shown to be very great; the negro rate averaging about 1.8 times that of the white population. Among the States represented Maryland stands first with 85.3, and Virginia second with 95.8.

The lowest infant mortality rates of individual cities are of interest. In cities over 250,000 Portland, Oregon, is first with 48. Cities between 250,000 and 100,000, Oakland, California, has the lowest rate with 52, and cities between 50,000 and 100,000, Berkeley, California, with the phenomenal rate of 39.

All this goes to show that the year 1921 was a splendid one for babies. Of the 573 cities, 76 per cent. have lower rates than in 1920, and with those cities of a population of over 50,000, 92 per cent. had a lower rate. Many factors

enter into this creditable result. We hope that Sir Arthur Newsholme's saying, "Infant mortality is the most sensitive index we possess of social welfare" is still true, so that we may take some unction unto our souls.

The Minnesota Children's Bureau of the State Board of Control has issued a Directory of Maternity Hospitals, Infant Homes and Agencies Receiving and Placing Children, licensed or certified by the Board. It has also published a Directory of County Child Welfare Boards, County Nurses and Probation Officers in Minnesota, together with a selected list of children's agencies in the United States and Canada.

### NORTH CAROLINA PLAN

To those interested in the plan now in vogue in North Carolina, the following statement quoted from a recent Bulletin of the North Carolina State Board of Charities and Public Welfare may be of interest:

#### "Duties of North Carolina County Superintendents of Public Welfare"

The law specifies that the county superintendent of public welfare shall be the chief school attendance officer and that he shall have the following other duties and powers:

1. To have, under control of the county commissioners, the care and supervision of the poor and to administer the poor funds.
  2. To act as agent of the State Board in relation to any work to be done by the State Board within the county.
  3. Under the direction of the State Board, to look after and keep up with the condition of persons discharged from hospitals for the insane and from other state institutions.
  4. To have oversight of prisoners in the county on parole from penitentiaries, reformatories, and all parole prisoners in the county.
  5. To have oversight of dependent and delinquent children, and especially those on parole or probation.
  6. To have oversight of all prisoners in the county on probation.
  7. To promote wholesome recreation in the county and to enforce such laws as regulate commercial amusement.
  8. Under the direction of the State Board, to have oversight over dependent children placed in the county by the State Board.
  9. To assist the State Board in finding employment for the unemployed.
  10. To investigate into the causes of distress, under the direction of the State Board, and to make such other investigations in the interest of social welfare as the State Board may direct.
- A careful study of these duties and powers indicates that they cover almost every recognized phase of social work."



The **New England Journal of Education**, perhaps the best known teachers' magazine in the country, in the issue of June 8th published the presidential address of Mrs. Claude D. Sullivan, State Superintendent of the Tennessee Children's Home Society, entitled "The State's Social Need" in full, and in an editorial said, "We wish we could hope that everyone who sees this issue of the Journal of Education would read this article with care. It is a great educational as well as a social welfare message." Truly, children's workers and teachers are coming to a better appreciation of their common problems.

The following is quoted from the July **Social Hygiene Bulletin**: "New York State Sanitary Code Prescribes Routine Eye Prophylaxis for New Born Babies."

"The Public Health Council of New York has taken steps to provide for the use of routine prophylaxis measures for the eyes of all infants at birth. The following amendment to the New York State Sanitary Code was adopted at a meeting held February 7, 1922:

"Regulation 10: Precautions to be observed for the prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum. It shall be the duty of the attending physician, midwife, nurse, or other person in attendance on a confinement case to use at the time of the delivery, prophylactic measures such as the instillation into both eyes of one per cent. solution of nitrate of silver, or an equally efficient agent, to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum or the development of sore eyes in the infant, due to infection at birth. This regulation takes effect April 1, 1922.

A number of states have dealt with this subject and many physicians, health officers, and social workers have believed that the health laws and regulations in their states are mandatory in this regard. They will be surprised, therefore, to learn that such regulations in some states are qualified, making the prophylaxis an optional procedure."

The **Bureau of Children** of the **Department of Public Welfare** of Harrisburg, Pa., in its June number of the "Common Weal" announces the following policies in child welfare work that have the approval of their staff:

1. No child should be separated from his parents because of poverty alone.
2. A social study should be made by a competent person of every child and his relatives to determine the need in each case, and the best interest of the child should be the determining factor in the plan for his future.
3. A complete mental and physical examination should be made of every child accepted for care. Correction of physical defects should be undertaken early.
4. If a child must be cared for away from the relatives preference should be given to

placement in well selected family homes which are properly supervised.

5. When a normal child is free for adoption this should be the end sought at an early period in the child's life.

6. To minimize juvenile delinquency a "Visiting Teacher" should be considered an essential member of the school staff in every county and probation service should be available to every court.

The staff of this Bureau is as follows:

Director: Dr. Ellen C. Potter.

Assistant Director: Miss Mary S. Labaree.

Superintendent of Mothers' Assistance Fund: Miss Mary F. Bogue.

Assistant Superintendent: Miss Blanche Stauffer.

Chief of Division of Juvenile Delinquency: Miss Margaret Steel Moss.

Field Representative: Miss Sarah H. Spencer.

**A Community Cow.** The Church-by-the-Side-of-the-Road in Greensboro, North Carolina, has a community cow, rented out at one dollar a week to families in the congregation who cannot afford to buy cows. The proceeds are being saved to buy other cows, so that eventually there may be a community herd.

The Child Health Organization of America announces the following daily train schedules:

#### 7:00 A. M. Red Cheek Local

Bathtubville .....	7:00 A.M.
East Toothbrush .....	7:10 A.M.
Drinkwater .....	7:12 A.M.
Hairbrush Heights .....	7:14 A.M.
Laughing Village .....	7:16 A.M.
Orange Valley .....	7:30 A.M.
Oatmeal .....	7:35 A.M.
Cocoa Crossing .....	7:50 A.M.
Butter Square .....	7:55 A.M.
Toast City .....	8:00 A.M.
Toiletville .....	8:15 A.M.

#### CHILD WELFARE NEWS

**MASSACHUSETTS**—In our April Bulletin we noted the establishment of a "Habit Clinic" at the South Bay Union Settlement, Boston. It is of interest to note that another "Habit Clinic" has been opened under the direction of Dr. Douglas A. Thom at the Baby Hygiene Clinic in Roxbury (Boston). This, like the original at the South Bay Union Settlement, will provide a place where children from two to five years of age, who are developing undesirable habits, may come to have them determined and corrected. The Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene thoroughly endorses this valuable

preventive work and sees in it a forward step of much importance to a program of public education in the prevention of mental disorders.

**MINNESOTA**—A translation of the Laws of Minnesota Relating to Children is being prepared for publication in Japanese by a Japanese graduate of Vassar, now working for the Tokio Bureau of Social Work.

**PENNSYLVANIA**—During the last five years the White-Williams Foundation has had school counselors in 14 different schools of Philadelphia and has studied in all 3812 children. Scholarships were provided for 142 pupils.

**CALIFORNIA**—Dr. Ethel M. Watters, since 1919 Director of the Bureau of Child Hygiene in the California State Board of Health, has been appointed to the Children's Bureau staff as consultant in the administration of the Shepard-Towner Act.

**NEW YORK**—According to a recent decision of the Supreme Court, magistrates have a right to commit to the New York Parental School as truant any persons who refuse to attend continuation school. This continuation school law applies to young persons between the ages of 16 and 18 who have not completed a stated amount of schooling.

**IOWA**—The Child Welfare Research Station of the University of Iowa at Iowa City has opened an experimental school for normal children between the ages of 2 and 4. Physical measurements of the children are made once a month and investigations are made as to the heredity, home conditions and special characteristics of the family from which the children come. A new six-room building equipped for the purpose has been opened.

**MISSOURI**—The St. Louis Public Library has compiled a list of books for children, selected for their special moral qualities. The books are classified according to the following topics: Ambition for education, courage, earning one's way, helping one's family, justice, kindness to animals, resourcefulness.

**NEW YORK**—Fresh-air homes and camps for New York city children, filled to capacity, are capable of giving a two-week vacation to about 34,000 children, which it is estimated is about one-third of the number needing them.

**BRAZIL**—Active preparations are under way for the celebration, in Rio de Janeiro, of the Third Pan-American Congress of Child Welfare, which will take place August 27th to September 5, 1922, in connection with the official program commemorating the Centenary of Brazilian independence. Official delegates to this Congress have already been designated by Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay and Venezuela. Among the subjects to be discussed are: infant

feeding and nutritional disorders, cerebral tumors, alcoholism, infant pathology, encephalitic syndromes in children, epidemic of contagious encephalitis, infantile tuberculosis, infantile acidosis, and dysentery.

**AUSTRIA**—The Senate of the city of Vienna has organized a Matrimonial Consultation Bureau, to which engaged couples may apply for advice before their marriage. The Bureau will be open one day a week and will be under the management of a medical specialist, fully conscious of the social and moral importance of the work entrusted to him. Couples engaged to be married can, if they desire, be medically examined there. The doctor will not be empowered to forbid any marriage. All he will be able to do will be to advise the couple to marry or not to marry.

**CZECHO-SLOVAKIA**—The Minister of Social Welfare, by a law which went into effect August, 1921, is authorized to issue orders concerning the supervision of placed-out and illegitimate children.

The first prohibition law in the country went into effect in April, 1922. It prohibits the selling of alcoholic beverages of any kind to children under sixteen years of age in public places or on excursions, even when children are accompanied by adults.

Through the courtesy of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, we send you a layette pattern which was designed by Dr. S. Josephine Baker, Director of the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the New York City Department of Health. It is the product of years of study and embodies several notable features. All garments are open in the front. This permits the garments to be laid on a table in the order in which they are to be worn, the child is then laid on the clothes, and dressing may be completed without turning the baby. Because the garments are open all the way down they are exceedingly easy to iron. The length of the garments and the size of the neck and arm holes are notable. The length of the skirt, which is 22 inches when finished, is long enough for a new born baby and will be found to be the correct length up to one year of age. The arm and neck holes will also permit the garments to be worn for an entire year.

We also enclose an attractive picture of the new Receiving Home of the New Jersey Children's Home Society, opened in February, 1922. Mr. J. C. Stock, Superintendent of the Society, has recently informed us that he has a number of copies on hand of a pamphlet which assisted him very much in the campaign for raising the necessary funds for the Receiving Home. He will be glad to furnish copies to any who care to avail themselves of his offer. Please write direct.

C. C. CARSTENS,  
Director.